

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/726,632
Sughrue Ref: Q78795

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 are cancelled.

18 (original). A flexible switch, comprising:
an adhesive sheet;
a first circuit member, provided on the adhesive sheet, and having a first electrode;
a first spacer sheet, provided on the first circuit member, and having a first through hole situated so as to correspond to the first electrode on the first circuit member;
a second circuit member, provided on the first spacer sheet, and having a second electrode situated so as to correspond to the first electrode of the first circuit member;
a second spacer sheet, provided on the second circuit member, and having a second through hole situated so as to correspond to the first electrode of the first circuit member; and
a front sheet, provided on the second spacer sheet, and having a projected portion situated so as to correspond to the second electrode of the second circuit member,
wherein the second circuit member is depressed by the projected portion through the second through hole so as to bend the second circuit member when the projected portion is depressed, so that the second electrode on the second circuit member is brought into contact with the first electrode through the first through hole; and

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wherein at least one of the adhesive sheet, the first circuit member, the first spacer sheet, the second circuit member, the second spacer sheet, and the front sheet has flexibility.

19 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the second circuit member has an elastic member situated so as to correspond to the first electrode of the first circuit member; and

wherein the elastic member is depressed together with the second circuit member by the projected portion when the projected portion is depressed.

20 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein a form of the projected portion is shaped into a hemisphere.

21 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, further comprising an external connection member, for electrically connecting the first circuit member to an external member, and the external connection member provided on the first circuit member.

22 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, further comprising an external connection member, for electrically connecting the second circuit member to an external member, and the external connection member provided on the second circuit member.

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23 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 21, wherein the external member is at least one of an automotive component and an automotive accessory.

24 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external member is at least one of an automotive component and an automotive accessory.

25 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 21, wherein the external connection member includes at least one of an edge connector terminal and a connector.

26 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 22, wherein the external connection member includes at least one of an edge connector terminal and a connector.

27 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 23, wherein the external connection member includes a wire connection circuit portion.

28 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 24, wherein the external connection member includes a wire connection circuit portion.

29 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein the first circuit member is provided on a first face of the adhesive sheet; and
wherein a second face of the adhesive sheet opposed to the first face

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is covered with a release paper sheet.

30 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein the front sheet is transparent.

31 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein the front sheet is provided with an compatible external appearance portion; and

wherein the compatible external appearance portion is provided on at least one of an inner face and an outer face of the front sheet.

32 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein at least one flat member situated so as to correspond to the second through holes is provided on the front sheet.

33 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 31, wherein the front sheet is transparent; and

wherein the compatible external appearance portion, formed on the inner face of the front sheet, is at least one of a printed portion and an ornamented portion.

34 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 31, wherein the compatible external appearance portion includes a coating layer made of a synthetic resin; and wherein the coating layer is formed on the projected portion of the front sheet.

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35 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 31, wherein the compatible external appearance portion includes a sheet cover member and a depressing portion; wherein the sheet cover member covers the outer face of the front sheet; wherein the depressing portion is integrally formed with the sheet cover member; and wherein the projected portion is accommodated in an inner side of the depressing portion.

36 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 31, wherein the compatible external appearance portion includes a key top member and a cover member; wherein the key top member depresses the projected portion when the key top member is depressed; and wherein the cover member covers the outer face of the front sheet while holding the key top member.

37 (currently amended): The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein the flexible switch is attached on at least one of automotive components, and wherein the automotive mounting portions include a face of a panel, a recess portion in the panel, an opening-closing member, a front face of an accessory, and a steering wheel.

38 (original). The flexible switch as set forth in claim 18, wherein the front sheet serves for a bezel.